STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2000

Prepared on May 16, 2000

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

Brief discussion of some items of interest to the Board follow. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any particular item.

LOW THREAT DISCHARGES

This section is for dischargers who have requested approval to discharge water that poses insignificant threat to water quality or for sites recommended for case closure (low risk sites where no further regulatory action is required). Consequently, we conditionally approved of these proposals. Conditions common to each approval are:

1. If you, the Regional Board, object to the proposal, an NPDES permit or waste discharge requirements will be prepared for the Board's consideration.

2. The discharger remains liable for any treatment system failure that results in significant discharge of pollutants.

3. We have a "low threat discharges" general permit for surface water discharges available, and the discharger may be required to file for coverage by that permit.

Site descriptions and specific conditions are listed below for each case.

CASE CLOSURES FOR ABOVE AND UNDERGROUND TANKS (UGT), AND SPILLS, LEAKS, INVESTIGATIONS AND CLEANUPS (SLIC)

This section is formatted to easily identify sites where staff is recommending case closure concurrence from the Board. Case closures generally fall into two categories - cases where cleanup goals have been met and cases where cleanup goals have <u>not</u> been met. In the first case, staff generally sends the responsible party a letter stating the case is now closed since cleanup objectives have been met and no further action is needed. Unless the Board objects, staff will continue to send closure letters and simply report these cases by way of the Executive Officer's report.

The second situation occurs where cleanup objectives are not yet met, but for various reasons, staff is recommending closure. These cases will be reported to the Board in more detail. For example, staff has discovered that some sites have a plume of contamination confined to a defined area. Ground water monitoring may show the plume is decreasing both in concentration and size, and does not threaten probable beneficial uses. Other specific circumstances may exist such as the plume may be confined to a shallow portion of the aquifer with no actual or expected uses of the groundwater. The reasons for staff recommending closure will be explained with each case.

We are presenting these closures in a manner similar to the way we present waivers of waste discharge requirements. That is, the case will be discussed and if the Board does not object to a case or wishes more information, the issue may be discussed at the Board meeting where we can provide clarification or the Board may reject our recommendation for closure.

Abbreviations commonly used for these cases:
TPH - Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons
TPHd - TPH measured in the carbon range of diesel
TPHg - TPH measured in the carbon range of gasoline
BTEX - Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene (components of gasoline)
MTBE - Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (gasoline oxygenate additive)
DCA or 1,2, DCA - dichloroethane (gasoline additive)
DCE - dichloroethylene (gasoline additive)
PCE -tetrachloroethylene or perchloroethylene (perc - a solvent)
TCE - trichloroethylene (a solvent)
TCA - trichloroethane (a solvent)

Staff Closed Case

Royal Packing, 20930 Spence Road, Salinas, Monterey County [John Goni 805/542-4628]

Two 1,000 gallon underground storage tanks were removed from this site in March of 1988. Gasoline was stored in both tanks. Subsequent investigation revealed residual gasoline constituents in soil and ground water under the former underground tanks. Soils were degraded from a depth of 16.5 to 35 feet below ground surface. A soil vapor extraction system was used to remove the contaminants from soil. Ground water was monitored for a period of ten years, and contaminant concentrations have attenuated to or below the water quality objectives for all constituents. Depth to ground water at the site varied from 36 to 41 feet below ground surface. MTBE was not detected in ground water samples. The site owner is Martin Vannegut and he has been advised of the site closure.

A Case Closure Summary Form was approved for this site, the monitoring wells have been properly abandoned, and the case was closed by Staff.

STATUS REPORTS

Chevron Service Station, 2194 Main Street, Cambria, San Luis Obispo County [Sheila Soderberg 805/549-3592]

The methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) ground water plume migrating from the Chevron Service Station located at 2194 Main Street, Cambria poses a threat to two of Cambria Community Service District (CCSD) standby supply wells. CCSD uses these wells generally at the end of summer or during drought conditions.

On April 17, 2000, this Board issued Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. 00-28 to Chevron Products Company (Chevron). The CAO directed Chevron to identify and provide an alternative water supply (equal in quantity to water pumped from the CCSD wells) for the Community of Cambria by September 1, 2000. In addition, the CAO specified that Chevron would supply monthly progress reports documenting Chevron's efforts in securing an alternate source concluding with a final report when the alternate source is in place.

During the April 27, 2000 MTBE Informational Exchange Meeting sponsored by San Luis Obispo County Supervisor, Ms. Shirley Bianchi, Chevron expressed concern that the CCSD has not supplied needed information in order to obtain an alternative water supply, such as the quantity of water needed for the community. Before supplying this information, CCSD requested a written commitment from Chevron for the alternative water supply. At the end of the MTBE meeting, Chevron indicated that they will respond to the Board regarding the CAO.

On May 3, 2000, Chevron submitted their first progress report specified by CAO No. 00-28. In the progress report, Chevron indicated that the CCSD did not respond to previous written and verbal information requests and that Chevron will appeal the CAO.

On May 5, 2000, Chevron filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board to appeal the CAO. Board staff is awaiting a response from the State Board regarding the petition.

Despite the appeal, which does not stay our Order, Chevron plans to operate a ground water extraction and treatment (pump and treat) system for contaminated ground water plume containment by June 1, 2000, and continue their investigative efforts. Chevron has retained Wayne Perry Construction to install piping for the onsite pump

and treat system. During the week of May 8, 2000, three Geoprobe borings were drilled and sampled to define the southwestern extent of the soil and shallow ground water plume. During the week of May 15, 2000, five "deep" ground water monitoring wells were drilled and installed with sampling performed the week of May 22, 2000.

For the pump and treat system, Chevron proposes to extract (pump) petroleum hydrocarbon-impacted ground water from monitoring wells into granular activated carbon canisters (GAC) aligned in series. The extracted ground water would then be discharged into either the sewer system, storm drain, or re-injected into the shallow aquifer via injection wells. Chevron is having difficulties securing a discharge location before the June 1, 2000 deadline. On February 29, 2000, Chevron requested information from CCSD so it could discharge to their sewer system; however, Chevron has indicated it has not received that information.

If the CCSD does not allow Chevron to discharge to their POTW, Chevron could discharge the treated water to the storm drain and a low threat discharge (NPDES) permit would be required (4-6 week timeframe, including public notification). In addition, the discharge line would have to be trenched to a drain line located approximately 1,500 feet from the station during the community's busy tourist season.

Another option for Chevron is to inject the treated ground water. Prior to beginning injection, several tasks need completing such as design and construction of a double redundant GAC system, GAC breakthrough calculations, completed aquifer test and/or modeling results on injection, stringent monitoring program, and a system operation and maintenance schedule. Chevron would then need waste discharge requirements or waiver from the Regional Board, since this option involves discharge of treated ground water. A last option is for Chevron to store the collected water and haul it to an appropriate disposal site. This is the option Chevron is taking until it can find a more permanent solution.

Regional Monitoring

Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) [Karen Worcester 805/549-3333]

Monitoring Activities

Salinas watershed sampling has been completed and data is being quality-checked for entry into the CCAMP database. Analysis of water quality data will begin this month. Rapid Bioassessment data and clam tissue data will not be available for 6 months to a year. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Farm Bureau, the Resource Conservation District, the Granite Canyon Marine Laboratory, and others are working with staff to develop a pilot-monitoring project on two Salinas River tributaries. Landowner self-monitoring data associated with grower implementation of Best Management Practices will also be included.

Santa Maria watershed sampling is well underway. Monthly water quality sampling has been conducted since January 2000 at 30 locations in the Santa Maria, Oso Flaco, Nipomo, Sisquoc, Cuyama, and Soda Lake drainages. The CCAMP monitoring team has met with various watershed stakeholders to get input on site and parameter selection for the sampling effort. Staff is also working with one landowner on implementing a self-monitoring program. The initial round of Rapid Bioassessment sampling has been completed. Clams have been deployed and retrieved for bioaccumulation analysis.

A contract to assess benthic invertebrate populations, sediment quality and tissue bioaccumulation in 14 of our coastal estuaries is still in progress. Fieldwork has been completed this spring and the data is currently being written up into a final report. It is our goal to determine whether benthic invertebrates will be useful as a tool for monitoring estuarine health.

Site selection is under discussion for the third year of our coastal fish contamination studies. The past two years' data was collected at a number of popular surf fishing beaches. This year, we may shift attention to other types of fishing (such as party boats). Data is not yet available from Fish and Game for past sampling, but should be in the next several months.

The Monterey Bay Area Dischargers' program has completed a draft monitoring approach for review and comment. This program is re-evaluating discharger monitoring programs to incorporate a

broader, more regional study design. We plan a large meeting of interested parties in the near future for additional input on the draft plan. We are targeting the Regional Board meeting in October to have our contractor, Applied Marine Sciences, Inc. present the program.

Funding

CCAMP has been supporting the efforts of Fish and Game and UC Davis researchers working on sea otter mortality issues. We have obtained funding for this research from a Sea Grant and from City of Pacific Grove settlement funds. Specific pathogens will be evaluated, using molecular and bioassay-based analysis of bivalves, as transmission vectors of protozoal encephalitis.

Karen Worcester has been participating in the State Monitoring and Assessment Roundtable. This group has primarily been focusing on how to organize expenditures of new monitoring funds, which will become available in fiscal year 2000/2001. The State Board plans to support Regional efforts by developing statewide contracts for certain tasks. Each Region has now submitted a workplan to the State Board, summarizing how money will be spent. Much discussion has centered on quality assurance, data quality objectives and data management. Karen is serving on a subcommittee to discuss how best to provide data management. She also wrote the proposal for the statewide budget development process for additional funds and staff to support the statewide program.

Data Management

Karen and Dave Paradies (CCAMP volunteer) have completed and distributed a data management system for volunteer programs. We have conducted one three-hour training on the program to over 40 volunteers, and have another training planned. We have worked with Dominic Roques and Revital Katznelson from the State Board on ways to adapt this system for the needs of other programs elsewhere in the State.

Our "professional version" for data entry and storage is nearing completion. We have written an extensive user's manual, and we are debugging the software. We had originally hoped it could also be used for storage of compliance data, but find that because of the various regulatory reporting requirements it is not a perfect fit. Matt Fabry is representing our Region on an electronic self-monitoring report subcommittee. The subcommittee's task is to evaluate and conduct a statewide pilot test of a system developed by Region Two (San Francisco Bay). The pilot test will use approximately 100 dischargers statewide.
Our CCAMP data management approach has been presented at a number of meetings. These include State Board staff, U.S. EPA staff, State Parks Resource Ecologists, Granite Canyon and Moss Landing researchers, and at a joint meeting of US EPA, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Department of Health Services, and State Board staff. We have been working on mapping Department of Pesticide Regulation pesticide use data in a GIS format. This is an incredibly powerful database, which can show pounds of various chemicals applied per square mile. It has extensive information on crop type, time of application, etc. DPR staff has requested that we demonstrate our data management tools and other aspects of our program at one of their staff meetings.

ATTACHMENTS

1. April 27, 2000 letter from Cambria Community Services District
2. May 9, 2000 letter from Cambria Community Services District